

The size of households are getting smaller with an increasing number of people living alone. While being on your own means it is more difficult to afford your own home, especially for first homebuyers hence why they tend to stay with their parents for longer, single person households are generally an inefficient use of space. Therefore I propose borrowing from the cohousing model where individuals purchase their own private space and a share in common facilities. This could reduce the floor space, and thus cost, for each individual as well as allowing a higher density on the site.

Though the trend is for households to get smaller houses are still getting bigger and usually the ultimate goal is to own your own house in the suburbs. As vast amounts of private space is the dream, getting people to happily share common spaces such as kitchens and bathrooms is not straight forward. It happens regularly in sharehouses but the impression is that it's out of necessity more than choice. The key, I believe, is the degree of privacy associated with each space and the ability to completely retreat into your own domain when and if necessary. The degree at which people are comfortable sharing varies between individuals and between the functions of the space. Most people are willing to share a living room while preferring a private bathroom, something that comes down to practicality as well. Getting this balance right, and providing a range of options, is crucial.

A general shift towards openness is necessary and this applies to the neighbourhood as well. Shared amenities, by all residents on the site, could help create a sense of community and promote interaction as well as provide facilities that otherwise they couldn't afford. The design of the external spaces is also important where inclusiveness is key. Rather than gates and fences, natural surveillance provides a sense of security and varying degrees of privacy can be achieved through careful design. Overall I think this can help alter the mindset of people away from the exclusive, fenced-in privacy that is the current ideal, towards a more open, communal and inclusive thinking that allows for higher densities and more efficient use of space.